Breeding and Farming the Sonoran Desert Halopyhte *Salicornia bigelovii* in Sonora, Mexico

Featuring: Jon Weeks
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NEVER Speaker

Breeding and Farming the Sonoran Desert Halopyhte
Salicornia bigelovii in Sonora, Mexico
Featuring: Jon Weeks
When:  Sunday, November 22nd, 2 pm
Where: Webster Auditorium, Desert Botanical Garden

Jon Weeks founded Landscape Cacti in 1975. It is a nursery devoted to growing cacti and other desert plants from seed for landscape use. In 1986, he received a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He was a research scientist for the University from ’86 to ’92. He studied halophytes (plants that can handle salt in the soil) and farmed them in Kino Bay, Sonora, Mexico. He is going to tell us the incredible story of one such plant, Salicornia bigelovii.

The town of Carefree is having a plant seminar by Greg Starr, owner and operator of Starr Nursery. It will be held in the Town Council Chambers at Carefree Town Hall in the U.S. Post Office Building. Part 1 will be Nov. 21 and Part 2 will be Dec. 12. The seminars are open to the public for $5. The seminar begins at 9:30 am. The title is “A Cactus and Succulent Journey through Mexico to your Landscape.” To find out more go to www.carefree.org and look under special events.

ON THE COVER

This super spiny fruit is of Grusonia emoryi from western Arizona. There are three species of Grusonia in Arizona (Pinkava, 1999) viz., emoryi, kunzei, and parishii (excluding the possible pulchella). These species have relatively disjoint populations with emoryi in western and southwestern Arizona, parishii from south and southwest of Phoenix, and kunzei east of Phoenix and into New Mexico. The fruits of emoryi stay large and fleshy for several months whereas those of parishii rapidly turn black and dry. A peculiarity of these fruits is their odor, which is overpowering and offensive.

Photo © Laurence Garvie
CACSS Annual Holiday Party

Dec. 13th in Webster Auditorium at the Desert Botanical Garden

DOESN'T THAT FOOD LOOK GOOD! We always have some wonderful potluck dishes brought by our members as well as a scrumptious turkey baked by the Swensons, and a ham that our club provides. This is a celebration where we have a chance to meet new friends, socialize with old ones, and enjoy the atmosphere of the garden.

TIME: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Appetizers, liquid refreshment, and socializing
1:00 p.m. - Holiday buffet

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: RSVP to Lin Leivian at Leivian@cox.net or call 480-838-5094 by November 30th. We need to know the category of food you will bring: APPETIZERS, MAIN DISH such as SALADS, VEGETABLES, CASSEROLES ETC. or DESSERT, and how many are coming (we have to set up Webster with the correct number of tables and chairs and need to let the garden know ahead of time.) Please bring your own plate, silverware and serving utensil. SEE YOU THERE!
CACSS Ballot for Officers and Directors serving in 2010

Voting Member's Name:

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<th>Officers</th>
<th>2010 Nominees</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<th>Alternate</th>
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<td>President:</td>
<td>Steve Martinez</td>
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<td>Vice President:</td>
<td>Lee Brownson</td>
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<td>Lois Schneberger</td>
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<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>Wayne Whipple</td>
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Write-in (pending nominees acceptance)

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Directors* *(These are two year terms ending in Dec. 2011)*

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* Note: There are four current Directors whose terms expire the end of 2010

Please mail to: Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society  
P.O. Box 63572  
Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572

Ballot must be received by December 9, 2009 to be counted, or, you can vote, in person, at the December CACSS General Meeting.
2010 CACCSS Plant Show and Sale

With the cooler fall temperatures just now appearing in the lower Sonoran desert, it may seem a little premature to start thinking about the arrival of spring in 2010. However, it’s never too early to begin our planning activities for the CACSS annual plant show and sale. In fact, I suspect that for some of our more prolific exhibitors, this may already be a year long process.

The 2010 edition of the plant show and sale is scheduled for the five day period from April 14th through April 18, which is a Wednesday through Sunday. As usual, the first two days are reserved for staging and judging the plant entries respectively, while the last three days are open to the public. Any member of CACSS or the Tucson C&SS may be a plant exhibitor. Since there are both competitive and non-competitive portions of the show, as well as a plethora of entry classes and divisions, even the most modest collections will have many plants suitable for display. We encourage all members to participate as exhibitors – this is your time to show off all those beautiful and treasured plants you’ve been growing!

This event is also a major fundraiser for CACSS and the DBG, as net proceeds from plant sales are split between the two organizations. The plant sale is held in the courtyard adjacent to Dorrence Hall. The vendors not only offer many healthy unusual and rare plants but also pottery and books. No, the show plants themselves will not be sold, but, if everything works correctly, the general public will become inspired and enthusiastic after viewing our amazing show plants and they are subsequently unleashed upon the vendors, who are then more than happy to fulfill our visitors’ newly aroused cacto-succulent fantasies.

Whether or not you decide to be an exhibitor and bring a plant or two for display, one other element is always essential to a successful plant show and sale – the ultimate success of the show and sale, both esthetically and financially, depends upon the many fine and dedicated volunteers from the ranks of our membership, who donate their time, knowledge and expertise towards making the event enjoyable for the exhibitors, vendors, and, most importantly, the visitors. There is always a need for greeters, floaters, cashiers, runners, repotters and the like. So, while you are contemplating which specimen in your collection is our next “best of show” entry, consider also, how you may contribute in a more subtle but equally rewarding way – be a volunteer and help us make the 2010 edition of the CACSS show and sale the best yet to date.

We will be providing more detailed information for the membership starting in January 2010. Until then, happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Tom Rankin - Co-chairman of the 2010 CACSS Show and Sale

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**DUES**

Pay your dues! Membership is by calendar year. Annual dues $20 individual (1 newsletter, 1 vote), $25 household (1 newsletter, 1 vote per member); 1/2 price paid August-December. Make checks payable to and mail to:

CACSS, PO Box 63572, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3572. More info: 602-852-9714.

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**CACSS WEBSITE UPDATES**

Have you noticed the new change on our CACSS Website? We now have “search” capability! Interested in finding out what information we have on a particular cactus? Put the information in the website’s search engine (on the front page of the website) and see what comes up. Great new tool to have on our beautiful website! Check it out www.centralarizonacactus.org/

If you have any suggestions or ideas please contact Melinda Louise at 602-326-1684 or email melindalouise@hotmail.com

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**PUMICE FOR SALE**

If anyone is interested in buying some pumice, I can bring bags of pumice to the meeting on Sunday. One bag - equivalent to a 5 gallon bucket full - is $2.50. Email me if you want some and how many bags you would like.

Lee Brownson - lsbrownson@cox.net

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**NAME BADGES**

Interested in one of the name badges you see other members wearing? You can have one of your very own! Talk to Jo Davis at the meeting or send her a check for $7.50, made out to “Jo Davis” to her home address:

2714 W. Monte Ave, Mesa, AZ 85202

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**THE POINT OF MISCELLANEA**

Two plants for sale

_Pseudolithos migiurtinus_

Both about 3 inches high. They have been growing in clay pots in my garden since 2003. Both flower profusely and have produced several seed pods per year. This is a rare opportunity to acquire two mature examples of this difficult to grow plant. Interested? contact Laurence Garvie lgarvie@cox.net

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**CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

JO DAVIS

Central Spine NOVEMBER, 2009
PLANT QUESTIONS???

Many CACSS members have experience with different kinds of succulent plants. I hope they will add their names to the following list (just call or e-mail Bob Torrest). For now the list is simply alphabetical with principal interests. When more members add their information, the list will be cross-referenced by topic.

**Doug Dawson**
480-893-1207
dawsonlithops@hotmail.com

Specializations include Flora of Namibia, Growing from Seed, Lithops, other Mesembs, and Melocactus.

**Mike Gallagher**
602-942-8580
mgallagher26@cox.net

Specializations include Aloes, Haworthias, Columnar Cacti, and Turbinicarpus.

**Steve Plath**
623-915-7615
revegdude1@juno.com

Specializations include Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Cyphostemma, Echinocereus, Fouquieria, Thelocactus, General Propagation, and Desert Revegetation.

**Cynthia Robinson**
602-615-2261
crobin500@msn.com

Specializations include Flora of Madagascar, Growing from Seed, Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents, Aloes, Apocynaceae, Burseraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fouquieriaceae, and Succulent Bonsai.

**Bob Torrest**
480-994-3868
robertst9114@msn.com

Specializations include Desert Landscaping, Unusual (including Rare Fruit) Trees and Shrubs, Aloes, Agaves, Columnar Cacti, Trichocereus, and Opuntia.